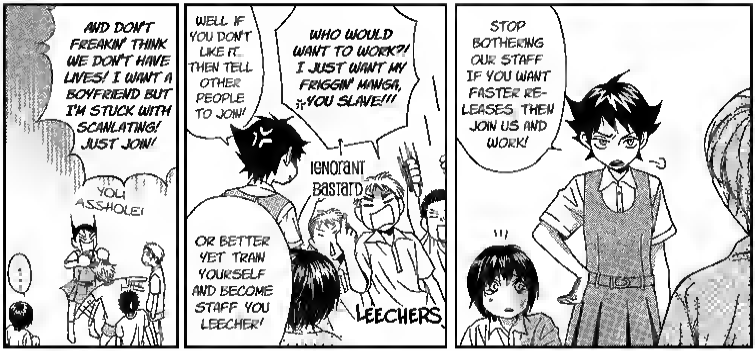
SHORT STORY


AND DON'T FREAKIN' THINK WE DON'T HAVE LIVES! I WANT A BOYFRIEND BUT I'M STUCK WITH SCANLATING! JUST JOIN!
YOU ASSHOLE!
WELL IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, THEN TELL OTHER PEOPLE TO JOIN!
WHO WOULD WANT TO WORK?! I JUST WANT MY FRIGGIN' MANGA, YOU SLAVE!!!
IGNORANT BASTARD
OR BETTER YET TRAIN YOURSELF AND BECOME STAFF YOU LEECHER!
LEECHERS
STOP BOTHERING OUR STAFF IF YOU WANT FASTER RELEASES THEN JOIN US AND WORK!
!!!

Shinrei Tantei Yakumo – Akai Hitomi wa Shitteiru
Oneshot Pen X Pal

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http://z10.invisionfree.com/Loyal_Kiss/

Pen X Pal

Mitsubachi: We're kind of similar (^_^). Let's meet up sometime
*Mitsubachi means "Honey Bee"
MEETING WITH YOUR PEN PAL?
Chouchou: I'll wear a red checkered coat.
YOU MEAN...
THAT SHADY PERSON WHO WON'T SEND YOU THEIR PICTURE?
*Chouchou means "Butterfly"
YEAH, 4 O'CLOCK IN FRONT OF SENBA STATION
AT THAT TIME, I...
HEY, ISN'T THAT KIND OF DANGER-OUS?

BUT...
IT'S FINE. THEY DON'T KNOW MY FACE, MY NAME, OR MY SCHOOL
IF YOU WANTED TO SEE A MOVIE, YOU SHOULD'VE COME WITH US!
DID NOT WANT TO FACE PEOPLE AND...
SOME OTHER TIME, OKAY?
I SAID THAT BECAUSE I WAS WORRIED BUT...
SHE'S SO COLD!
IT'S LIKE SHE DOESN'T NOTICE US OR SOMETHING...
WAS MORE COMFORTABLE IN THE CYBERSPACE WHERE I COULD BE "CHOUCHOU*",
AND FORGET ABOUT MY NOSY FRIENDS AND ANNOYING FAMILY.

*ChouChou means butterfly

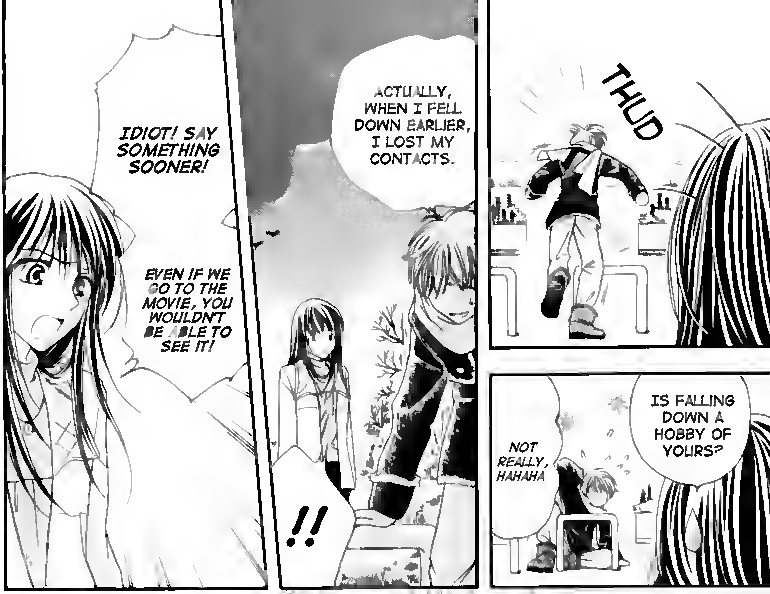
Pant
Pant
BUT ISN'T THERE ANY-ONE HERE?
PEEK
IF HE SEEMS DANGEROUS, I CAN JUST RUN AWAY.
Jacket is reversible so she can change depending on the situation.
ARE YOU CHOUCHOU-SAN?

WOW!
HE'S SURPRISINGLY DECENT!
AH! UH, NICE TO MEET YOU!
Grab
COME ON! HURRY!
pull
DASH
WHAT?!
MITSUBACHI-KUN?

Freeze
SORRY
WE CAN MAKE IT TO THE MOVIE ON TIME SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO HURRY!
IS IT OKAY IF I REST A LITTLE?
TU
RN
!!
HEY, MITSUBACHI-KUN!
WHAT'S WITH THIS PERSON?!
BLOOD?! WHAT THE?! ARE YOU OK?!
I WAS IN A HURRY AND FELL AT THE TRAIN STATION...
THE PAIN IN FINE, BUT I'M WEAK WITH BLOOD...
WoBBle
SHAKE SHAKE
Why is he suddenly making a huge fuss all alone?!
.....
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE A DOCTOR?
HUH?
Mitsubachi- I'm doing my residency* (^_^) I also do operations

*A stage of graduate medical training.

BUT,
HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S IN MY GRADE.
NO... I
WERE THEY LIES?
AS LONG AS IT'S TIME WELL SPENT, IT'S FINE, RIGHT?
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO WE ARE.
WHATEVER, IT'S FINE.
I'M STILL JUST CHOUCHOU, WHO IS A NOBODY.
I DON'T TRUST EVERYTHING IN TEXT MESSAGES
I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU, AND I WON'T TELL YOU EVERYTHING EITHER
HE CAN'T BE A BAD PERSON, RIGHT?
SHALL WE GO TO THE MOVIES?
WELL, IF HE'S THAT BAD OF A LIAR...
WELL THEN
P.L
P.L


IDIOT! SAY SOMETHING SOONER!
EVEN IF WE GO TO THE MOVIE, YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO SEE IT!
ACTUALLY, WHEN I FELL DOWN EARLIER, I LOST MY CONTACTS.
!!
THUD
IS FALLING DOWN A HOBBY OF YOURS?
NOT REALLY, HAHAHA

Chouchou: Because I'm reluctant to consider others

Mitsubachi: Me too. I hate trying to please people. >_<
SOMEHOW...
YOU KNOW,
ISN'T HE KIND OF DIFFERENT FROM THE TEXTS?
I STILL...
CAN YOU NOT WORRY ABOUT IT SO MUCH?
IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE DATING OR ANYTHING.
STATE YOUR INTENTIONS AND IF WE DON'T AGREE, WE'LL END THIS. LET'S TAKE IT EASY.
Phew
ALRIGHT

LET'S START OVER.
WELL THEN, WE'LL SKIP THE MOVIE.
HADN'T NOTICED THAT.
BECAUSE, IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO HE IS,
Chouchou~ I can't tell my friends the truth! It would only get worse later on!
SEE?
OR WHO I AM,
Mitsubachi~ I understand~ It's the same for me.
IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T LIKE THEM,
I DON'T REALLY HATE MY FRIENDS.
BUT, THE MORE I'M WITH MY FRIENDS, THE HEAVIER I FEEL AROUND THEM
IT'S JUST FUN.

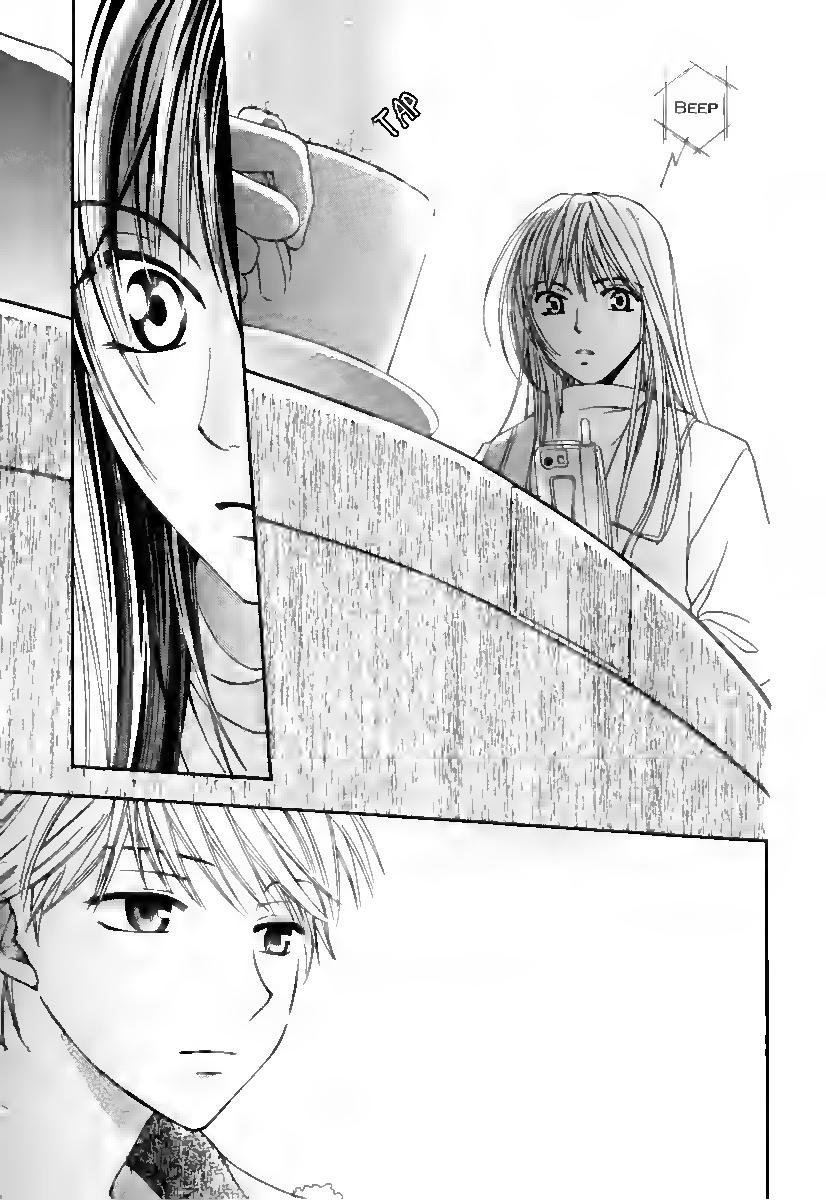
I CAN'T TELL MY FRIENDS WHAT I ACTUALLY THINK BECAUSE I'LL HAVE TO SEE THEM AGAIN IF I SAY ANYTHING
SO I FEEL SUFFOCATED WHEN I'M AROUND PEOPLE SINCE I THINK THAT WAY
BECAUSE I DISTANCE MYSELF FROM EVERYONE AT SCHOOL, THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHOSE FACES I CAN'T REMEMBER!
DO YOU EVEN REMEMBER THE FACE OF THE PERSON WHO SITS IN FRONT OF YOU?
...MALE...
I SEE
At that level huh?
I WON'T BE INVOLVED WITH THESE PEOPLE NEXT YEAR, SO I'M FED UP WITH BEING CONCERNED FOR THEM.
SINCE I CAN'T BE RID OF THEM IF I DON'T LIKE THEM ANYMORE LIKE I COULD WHEN ERASING A PEN PAL FROM MY PHONE
YOU CAN EASILY BE HONEST WITH PEN PALS BECAUSE YOU CAN ERASE THEIR INFO FROM YOUR CELL PHONE AS SOON AS YOU DON'T LIKE THEM ANYMORE, HUH?

Chouchou Parents, friends, everyone They're all somewhat depressing

A KIND PERSON, AREN'T YOU?
YOU'RE
I WISH RELATION-SHIPS WITH PEOPLE COULD END JUST BY THE PUSH OF THIS BUTTON.
YOU DON'T WANT TO HURT YOUR FRIENDS
BECAUSE YOU'RE JUST TIRED OF BEING CON-SIDERATE.
Chouchou: Doesn't matter who. I just want to be myself.
YOU'RE A KIND PERSON
WHO GAVE UP ON SEEING A MOVIE BECAUSE OF A BONEHEAD WHO LOST HIS CONTACTS.
Mitsubachi: Same here. We agree a lot, huh?

YOU MUST BE REALLY POPULAR!
BUT, IF YOU DELETE A PERSON'S CONTACT INFO AND REGRET IT LATER, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO APOLOGIZE,
BECAUSE THE CLOSER YOU ARE, THE MORE LIKELY YOU'LL ARGUE
PLEASE DON'T TALK ABOUT SUCH A SAD THING
TOTALLY...
OKAY?

NOT THE SAME IN TEXTS!!
HOWEVER...
Smile
BZZZZZ
AH,
A MESSAGE
BEEP


TAP
BEEP

ARE YOU?
Mitsubachi: Hey-
-END-
WHO...
Mitsubachi: Hey, how come you didn't show up today?
FROM THE REAL ONE, HUH?
YOU'RE NOT MITSUBACHI-KUN?
WHO ARE YOU!?
WELL, TELL ME WHO YOU ARE!
CALM DOWN AND LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY!

It doesn't matter who we are.
As long as it's time well spent, it's fine, right?
YOU WERE THE ONE THAT SAID IT DIDN'T MATTER WHO..
!
DASH

HOW DO I EXPLAIN THIS?!
IT'S ALL BEEN LIES?!
Clatter
WAIT!!
THAT'S RIGHT, THAT GUY...
HE DIDN'T INTRODUCE HIMSELF AS MITSUBACHI.
Are you "Chouchou"-san?
BUT HOW...
Cashing

HOW DID HE KNOW ABOUT "CHOUCHOU"?!
HEY! AREN'T YOU "CHOUCHOU"-SAN?
!
YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG PERSON!
AH, I SEE WELL, WHATEVER WANNA GET SOME TEA?
LEAVE ME ALONE PLEASE!!
You ain't gotta be a bitch!
RED CHECKERS ...
THAT'S THE REAL MITSUBACHI-KUN?!
SHIT, SEEMS SHE GOT AWAY
SHUT IT

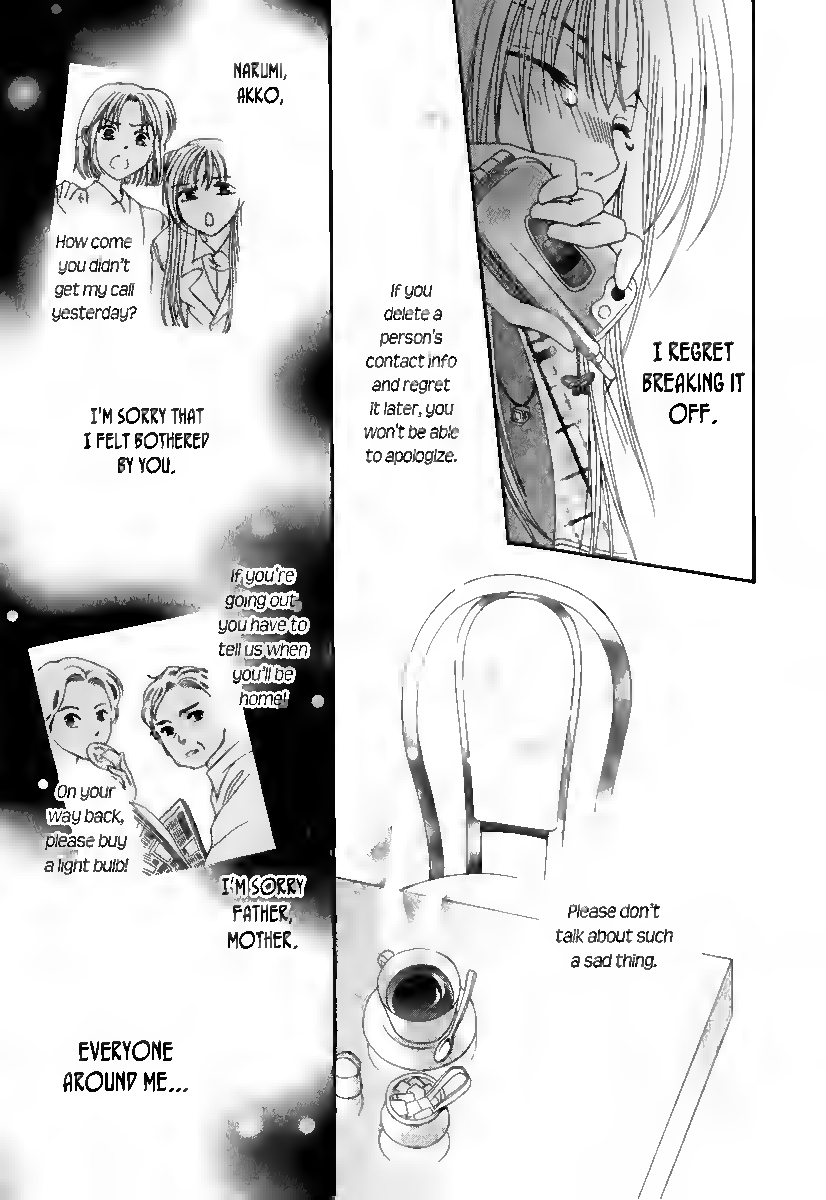
I'M HUNGRY, LET'S GO GRAB A DRINK
WHAT THE HELL? I ONLY CAME 'CAUSE YOU SAID YOU LURED OUT YOUR PEN PAL!
I FIGURED SHE'D COME SINCE SHE WAS SO EASY I'M SERIOUSLY PISSED
WHAT THE HELL'S UP WITH "CHOUCHOU" ANYWAY? I HAD TO USE SOME FAIRYTALE NAME LIKE "MITSUBACHI" JUST TO PLAY ALONG WITH THAT!
WUAAA
I SHOULD GET A RE-FUND FOR THOSE TEXTS!!
YOU'RE SUCH A CHOU*!!
THE WORST!!
WHAT?! I'M NOT AS BIG AN IDIOT AS THAT GUY I TRIPPED AT THE STATION EARLIER!
YOU TALKIN' ABOUT THE GUY WITH THE SCARF? HE WENT DOWN PRETTY HARD
I was in a hurry and fell at the train station.
*refer to pg02 Chou means super idiot (a play on words).

HEAR? THOSE GUYS TALKING.
THAT GUY ALSO...
THAT GUY!!
'CAUSE THAT GUY KEPT STARIN' AT US ON THE TRAIN!
THAT'S WHY YOU TRIPPED HIM?!
Punish, Punish
THAT'S HOW HE KNEW.
THIS "CHOUCHOU" PERSON'S IN DANGER.
"CHOUCHOU" IS IT? IS SHE STUPID?!
THAT'S WHY HE RUSHED AND ENDED UP INJURED.
I FEEL SO ASHAMED...

HE'S NOT HERE...
WHATEVER, I HAVE TO HURRY!!
HE TRIED TO LET ME KNOW...!
MENU
BUTA
NEW WINTER MENU
Chatter
Chatter

You wanted to see the movie, right?
It's fine.
You're a kind person.
I...
.....

I wish relationships with people could end just by the push of this button.


NARUMI, AKKO,
How come you didn't get my call yesterday?
I'M SORRY THAT I FELT BOTHERED BY YOU.
If you delete a person's contact info and regret it later, you won't be able to apologize.
I REGRET BREAKING IT OFF.
If you're going out you have to tell us when you'll be home!
On your way back, please buy a light bulb!
I'M SORRY FATHER, MOTHER.
Please don't talk about such a sad thing.
EVERYONE AROUND ME...

I'M SORRY.
I'LL HEAD HOME.
ARE YOU HITOMI YOKOYAMA BY ANY CHANCE?
I AM, BUT...
YOU,
I WAS TOLD TO STOP A GIRL WEARING A WHITE COAT WITH A CHECKERED COLLAR IF I SAW HER.
IF I DIDN'T, I WAS TOLD YOU WOULD BE IN DANGER.
WHO?
A GUY ABOUT YOUR AGE. HE WAS WEARING A BEIGE SCARF.

HE SAID HE'D SEARCH THE AREA FOR YOU...
AHH, SEE?
Huff
Huff
THAT GUY.

I'M GLAD...
YOU'RE SAFE.

THANK YOU.
I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN TO LIE TO YOU

I MISSED MY CHANCE TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH
BUT REALLY,
I'M SO SORRY I WAS THE ONE WHO THOUGHT YOU WERE MITSUBACHI-KUN
BUT I WAS SO UPSET WHEN YOU BOLTED BEFORE I COULD EXPLAIN THE SITUATION!
Due to danger,
Please wait behind the yellow line.
I'VE GOT TO TAKE THIS TRAIN
The train will be arriving shortly at the #3 platform.
WELL THEN, PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF
AH, HEY!
I THINK I HESITATED TO TELL YOU THAT THE REAL "MITSUBACHI" WAS A BAD GUY...
BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO HURT YOU

TELL ME YOUR NAME, YOUR REAL NAME! IF IT'S ALRIGHT, LET'S MEET AGAIN!
I WANT YOU TO BECOME A FRIEND WHO CAN'T BE RE-MOVED JUST BY THE PUSH OF A BUTTON.
OOSH
YOU STILL DON'T RECOG-NIZE ME?
OOO
WO

Ring
!?
Are you Hitomi Yokoyama by any chance?
HOW DID YOU KNOW MY NAME!?
ANSWERING THAT QUESTION IS YOUR HOMEWORK FOR TOMORROW.
YOKOYAMA-SAN
Fssh
CLATTER
EH?!
CLATTER

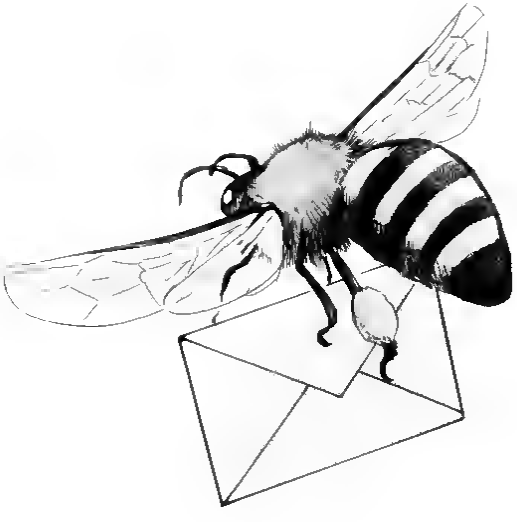
WHAT THE HELL?!
BUT...
HE SAID...
"HOMEWORK FOR TOMORROW"!
IT'S LIKE HE SAID "SEE YOU TOMORROW"
...
Morning
FOR NOW, I'LL TRY GOING TO THAT STATION AT THE SAME TIME TODAY.
I've got to say him back for that hairpin.
MORNING HITOMI!
Ah she's here!

NARUMI, AKKO...
HOW WAS IT YESTERDAY WITH YOUR PEN PAL?
WE WERE SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU!
SEEING FRIENDS EVERYDAY...
IT'S AMAZING, ISN'T IT?
I'M ALRIGHT, THANKS!
Whoa! What happened to your head?!
PEOPLE ARE GATHERING AROUND SOMEONE
IT'S NAGAYASU-KUN!
He's always quiet!
IS NAGAYASU FROM OUR CLASS?
Looks quirky
Looks painful
CHATTER
CHATTER

Probably
Like this
So that's his name!
AH... WELL, HE'S THE GLOOMY GUY WITH GLASSES, RIGHT?
I CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER THE FACE OF THE GUY WHO SITS IN FRONT OF ME!
WHAT'RE YOU SAYING?
DON'T YOU SIT RIGHT BEHIND HIM?
I'M REALLY BAD AT NOTICING PEOPLE AROUND ME EH?
I...
AHH
I TRIED TALKING TO HIM AND HE WAS SURPRISINGLY FRIENDLY!
Chatter
UNDERNEATH HIS GLASSES...
HE HAS AN UNEXPECTEDLY PRETTY FACE!
Chatter
Check it out
ISN'T THAT SOMETHING? HE SEEMS KIND
BY ALL MEANS FROM HERE ON!
Fight!
MORNING NAGAYASU-KUN!
DECIDED THAT FROM THIS POINT ON, I WOULD FACE THE PEOPLE AROUND ME.
MORNING "CHOUCHOU"-SAN

DID YOU DO YOUR HOME-WORK?
SEEMS LIKE THERE'LL BE TROUBLE BETWEEN US, BUT...
SURELY WE'LL HAVE A LOT OF FUN.

PEN X PAL / END



Psychic Detective YAKUMO

The Red Eye has a Clue